

By: Tucker W. Leck

From the Kansas State Collegiate Crops team to Umbarger Hall, the headquarters of the Kansas FFA Association, Sophomore Ashley Chandler is continuing her passion for agriculture and strong leadership in various organizations.

Currently, Chandler serves as the Kansas FFA President. In this position, her duties require her to network and collaborate with nearly 10,000 members, advisers, and alumni, to strengthen youth's involvement in agriculture.

With this position, Chandler has made numerous memories. For example, at National FFA Convention held in Indianapolis, In., Chandler was given the ultimate opportunity. "My favorite experience so far as a state officer has been representing the members of Kansas FFA as a leadership delegate at National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, In."

In addition, she also has the responsibility of serving on the Kansas State University's Crop team, and is hopeful to achieve a significant goal. "This year I was able to judge as an alternate member of the team and I look forward to being on the marking team next year. Our team's goal is to win the National Collegiate Crops Contest held in Chicago, Il," Chandler said.

While Chandler dedicates much of her time to many organizations, her education is also a priority. "Currently I am attending Kansas State University working towards a B.S. in Agriculture with a major in agronomy and a secondary major in global food systems leadership – sustainability and natural resources. I take classes related to plant science, economics, sustainability, and leadership," said Chandler.

After obtaining her Bachelor's Degree, her goal is to either obtain a Master's of Agribusiness at Kansas State University, or attend Oklahoma State University to pursue a Master's in Agribusiness leadership.

Her advice to students of Neodesha High School, in general, is simple. "Get Involved! The enrichment that extracurricular activities like FFA, FCCLA, Band, Student Council, sports, and all other organizations offer is irreplaceable. Being involved in clubs and organizations helps us all to build connections and strengthen essential skills like leadership," Chandler added.

Chandler is grateful for the Neodesha Promise Scholarship, and the additional financial benefits it will offer her beyond an undergraduate education. "The Promise Scholarship will not only allow me to complete my undergraduate degree debt-free, deferring the scholarship for the first two years will also assist me financially in pursuing graduate school."

Chandler is continuing her established reputation of leadership, gratitude, and her unique ability to connect and collaborate with others in organizational activity and post-secondary education.